

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

12 February 1981

Dr. Ivo Omrcanin

[Redacted]

This is in response to your letter of 4 February 1981 to Mr. William Casey, Director, CIA, inquiring about the availability of sources pertaining to the period of World War II.

From your description, it appears you are referring to the records of the OSS. These currently are held by CIA, where a team has been at work for several years reviewing them for declassification and accession to the National Archives. The target date for completion of the classification review is mid-1982, after which the Archives must process the material for release to the public. The above information pertains only to US Government records.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

Roberta Knapp
CIA History Staff

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DR. IVO OMRCANIN

Executive Registry

81-354

STAT

February 4, 1981

Mr. William Casey
Director, CIA
Langley, Virginia

Dear Mr. Casey:

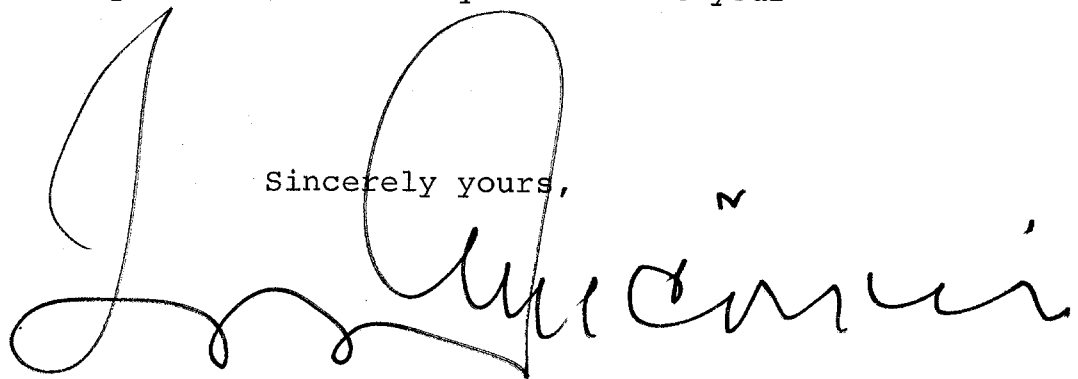
In the book, A MAN CALLED INTREPID, on page 19 of the photographs, between pages 230-231, the author, William Stevenson, carries the photostats of the British documents with false identity for Josip Broz Tito. On page 209, the author says that how this happened "is still classified information."

Researching the question in the National Archives, I was told that there are materials still confidential at the CIA.

I am asking, Sir, if you would be so kind and inform me about the availability of sources for my studies at your institution.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ivo Omrcanin', written over the 'Sincerely yours,' text.

British genius in espionage. The forged documents seemed to prove that Donovan was stirring up trouble on a British Secret Service mission that combined a survey of the political and military conditions that might await any American intervention with an Anglo-American diplomatic offensive in the area.

The success of Donovan's mission could be followed step by step by Churchill, reading the exchanges between the German High Command and German diplomats, between German intelligence and Hitler. Most of this material came through Bletchley, and the highlights were read to him directly by telephone. Another source was also being tapped: a Communist international radio network run from Moscow, in which some material came from Yugoslavia.

When Donovan arrived in Belgrade he found Prince-Regent Paul preparing to join the Axis, after being summoned to Hitler's presence. Hitler had imposed upon Paul the full force of the intimidating Nazi presence, subjecting the Prince to a display of military power, totalitarian efficiency, and the whole range of the Führer's histrionic talents.

Churchill, reading the blow-by-blow reports of Nazi leaders, including Hitler himself, commented to Roosevelt that "Prince Paul's attitude looks like that of an unfortunate man in a cage with a tiger, hoping not to provoke him while steadily dinnertime approaches."

The President replied through INTREPID that he would apply what counterpressure he could. Perhaps Yugoslavia would dig in her heels? Deliberately using the commercial cables that he knew the Germans tapped, Roosevelt wired Donovan: "Any nation which tamely submits will be regarded less sympathetically when the United States comes to settle accounts than any nation resisting the Nazis." Informed of this, Prince Paul told Donovan that any German move into Yugoslavia would be merely to secure Hitler's flank for an imminent attack on Russia. Hitler had told him so.

This was the kind of reasoning that Churchill most feared. Prince Paul was anti-Bolshevik. "Patriots may be robbed of any reason to rally to a resistance army," Churchill had already warned Donovan. "A mass uprising can result only from some violent Nazi action."

There was one group in Yugoslavia capable of resistance: Tito's Communists. Tito was then only a name. Some said he did not exist at all. He had returned from the Soviet Union a year earlier, disguised as Spiridon Mekas and carrying a British passport issued in Canada. How this came about is still classified information. Tito had been deeply

We, Freeman, Viscount
Willingdon, G.C.S.K.,
G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., G.B.E.,
Governor General and
Commander-in-Chief of
the Dominion of Canada,
Request, in the name of
His Britannic Majesty, all
those whom it may con-
cern to allow the bearer
to pass freely without let
or hindrance and to afford
him every assistance
and protection of which
he may stand in
need.

Donné sous Notre sceau
et scellé de Nos armes à
Ottawa le 27 jour
décembre 1927.

Given under hand
and seal of arms at
Ottawa this 27th day
December 1927.



Willingdon

This passport contains 32 pages.
Ce passeport contient 32 pages.



PASSPORT
PASSEPORT

CANADA

No. of passport

32829

No du passeport

Name of bearer

Nom du porteur

Spiridon Mekas

Accompanied by his wife

Accompagné de sa femme

and

children

et de

enfants

NATIONAL STATUS

NATIONALITÉ

Naturalized British
Subject 25 July 1923
of Yugoslavian origin

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION
SIGNALLEMENT

Profession *Mechanic* Wife *Femme*
Place and date of birth *Karlova, Yugoslavia, 1895*
Lieu et date de naissance
Domicile *Canada*
Domicile
Race *Croat*
Visage
Couleur of eyes *Grey*
Couleur des yeux
Couleur of hair *Dark Blond*
Couleur des cheveux
Couleur des cheveux
Signes particuliers

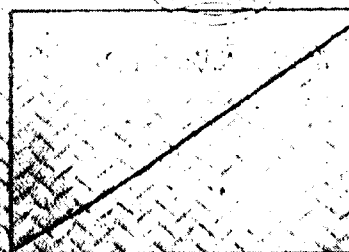
CHILDREN

ENFANTS



WIFE

FEMME



This passport gave protection to a naturalized Canadian citizen, Spiridon Mekas, who was able to travel in non-Occupied Europe and to enter Yugoslavia just before the Nazi invasion. This passport was a forgery. Its subject was a resistance leader, then hardly known, but now familiar as Tito.



Mr. William Casey, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Langley, Virginia

STAT

DR. AND MRS. IVO OMRCAL

